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HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, MAINTENANCE
TO BE IMPROVED

17 BILLION FOR HIGHWAYS -- Lidova Demokracie, No 85, 10 Apr 49

Investments in transportation during the Five-Year Plan are to be divided as follows among the various transport media:

	Amt to Be Invested	Percent of Total
Railroads	33,624	66.40
Highways	5,130	10.15
Shipping	1,320	2.60
Aviation	3,434	6.75
Post	7,126	14.10
Total	50,634	100.00

During the Five-Year Plan about 54 and 22 percent, respectively, number of buses and trucks are to be replaced, although a much larger proportion should be replaced. A total of 4,118 billion crowns are to be spent purchasing vehicles. Efforts must be made to build garages; for example, The Czechoslovak State Railways can house only 60 percent of their cars.

It will be necessary to expand the bus lines in Slovakia, where 210 lines are in operation over 6,100 kilometers. In the Czech Provinces there are 1,290 lines covering 27,800 kilometers.

The amount of goods transported in 1948 was 37 percent higher than in 1947: 10,700,000 tons in the first 6 months of 1948 as against 7,800,000 tons during the first half of 1947. About 23 percent more goods are to be transported by highway in 1953 than in 1948. The number of ton-kilometers hauled will rise by 36 percent and the number of passenger miles by 45 percent over the 1948 level.

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The Five-Year Plan includes 17 billion crowns' outlay for construction of new highways and repairs on permanent bridges. Of the 71,000 kilometers of highways in Czechoslovakia, only 16 percent are equipped with a dust-free surface, while 84 percent are ordinary gravel roads.

NEW HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE METHOD -- Slobodne Slovo, No 86, 12 Apr 49

The Kraj National Committee in Jihlava has introduced a new system of highway repair. Instead of using ten road repair workers, they are using a motorized detachment consisting of one road repair worker, four helpers, and one driver. The experiment was begun early in April on a 60.73-kilometer section of road between Havlickuv Brod, Jihlava, and Velka Bites.

The detachment is temporarily equipped with a 3-ton truck, a grader, a loader, a machine sweeper, two 100-liter vessels for heating tar and similar materials, and two bicycles, in addition to smaller tools.

The machine station in Nove Mesto na Morave will also be motorized. This machine station is not to be used in one region alone, but is to work wherever needed. It is primarily supposed to renew and construct highways, not only to repair them. Therefore it is equipped with a dredge, a bulldozer, a grader, mobile crushing equipment, a machine sweeper, tractors, trucks, and a scraper. The scraper, in contrast to the bulldozer, can not only scrape but can carry dirt for considerable distances.

NEW TYPE TIRE -- Technika Narodu, No 15, 13 Apr 49

The Czech rubber industry has developed a new type of tire for automobiles. Instead of having a separate rubber tube inserted, the new tire is made with rubber partitions inside.

When the tire is damaged, only the damaged part and not the whole tire deflates. On rough roads, the strain on the tires is much less than in the case of ordinary tires. The new tires can be repaired many times without impairment to their wearing qualities, and they are not injured by over-heating during long trips.

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